California GARDEN

10c

WISTERIA COVERED PERGOLA HAROLD A. TAYLOR, PHOTO

March
1934

25 * 8/9

Old Town Plaza,
San Diego
by C. I. Jerabek

Ice Plants,
New and Old
by K. O. Sessions

Native Plants for
Sandy Soil
by Lester Rowntree

The Magazine . . .

"California Garden"

A Practical Local Guide published monthly
for more than 20 years
Subscription $1.00 per year

The official organ of the San Diego Floral Association, in its 24th year of continuous activities.
All interested in garden matters and civic beautification are invited to join. Dues $1.50 per year. Magazine and Membership combined $2.00 per year.

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The Late Walter S. Merrill

The late Walter S. Merrill gave freely of his services to both the San Diego Floral Association and the San Diego Rose Society. However in view of the closer contact, Mr. Hieatt, President of the Rose Society had with the late Mr. Merrill in recent years the editor feels it most fitting that Mr. Hieatt write the obituary that follows.

—EDITOR.

IN the death of Walter S. Merrill the community has lost one of its real Garden enthusiasts. His deep interest in gardening was reflected in his activities in those organizations devoted to better gardens and to the dissemination of Floricultural and Horticultural knowledge.

He was an active member of The San Diego Floral Association during all of his residence here, serving it in many ways. He was largely instrumental in the promotion of the Garden Contests, so successfully conducted by the Floral Association and was the Chairman of the first Garden Contest Committee in 1929.

He was a charter member of the San Diego Rose Society and served continuously as a Director of the society. He also held the office of Vice-president of the Society for three terms and of President for one term. His outstanding work in the Rose Society was probably as Chairman of its Show Committees. Much of the success of its Rose Shows was due to his wise counsel and his efficient labor.

With Walter Merrill an office of chairmanship meant responsibility, work to be accomplished, therefore, he gave of his time and strength unstintingly in the active promotion of the interests of both the Floral Association and the Rose Society, serving them with dignity and with much credit to himself and to the organizations.

Walter Merrill's writings on Horticultural subjects were always with vigor, directness and clarity and always with a thorough knowledge of the subject in hand. He was the first editor of the California Rosarian and an associate editor of The San Diego Rosarian during its period of publication. For many years he was Associate Editor of The California Garden.

A close student of landscaping and gardening, he manifested a keen sense of the appropriateness of material to the garden design. Many of the fine gardens of San Diego and Southern California bear testimony to his genius and skill.

As a man Walter Merrill was democratic, refined and unassuming. He attracted people by his gentleness of manner and his evident sincerity. His friendship was of the type that was loyal and dependable. Those who knew him intimately were impressed by his qualities of fairness, generosity and kindness and knew something of the high motives which actuated his life. He had many fine traits, the most outstanding one, I think, was his devotion to his mother. She always came first in his thoughts and in his plans. For this influence, I am sure, we owe much for the beautiful life which he lived.

Walter S. Merrill was born in Rockland, Mass. on November 1st, 1880. He attended the local schools at Rockland and at Boston. He graduated from Harvard University in the class of 1903.

He came to California in 1911, living at Del Mar for a time. Later he became interested in an apple ranch near Julian and also spent some time on Cedros Island. He returned to Boston in 1914 and soon thereafter went to Cuba and was employed in an executive capacity on a large sugar plantation. Later he was commissioned to landscape a very large estate in Venezula operating under American ownership and devoted principally to the production of coffee. While engaged in this gigantic and absorbing task the management of this huge enterprise was thrust upon him by the illness of the general manager who was compelled to return to the States for several months.

After finishing the landscaping in Venezuela, Mr. Merrill traveled extensively in Europe for a year and a half, spending considerable time in Spain where he had a fine opportunity to study the garden architecture which attracted him.

Shortly after his return to Boston the lure of California brought Mr. Merrill with his mother and his aunt to San Diego as permanent residents. He was associated with Miss K. O. Sessions for about a year in her nursery and landscaping work and in 1925 built the home at LaPlaya, the planning and planting of which gave him much joy.

Surely we are all better for having known Walter Merrill and San Diego was enriched by the years he was one of her good citizens.

FORREST L. HIEATT.

Flowering Acacias

. . . *Floral Association Members Visit K. O. Session Garden*

THE wonderful spring-like day on Sunday after the long hoped for rain was a real incentive for a garden visit to the Acacias flowering on the hills of Pacific Beach. Miss K. O. Sessions' invitation to the San Diego Floral Association, and friends was responded to by fully 150, from 2 to 5 p. m.

The Acacias had been plainly labeled and cut sprays were presented to many. There were eight varieties new to the gardeners of San Diego. The most popular variety was the small-leafed and golden flowered *Acacia leptoclada,* a decidedly thin spreading shrub. It was in strong contrast to its neighbor *Acacia prominens* of the same age-planted the same day four years ago. This well named species fully 40 tall, has a straight trunk ten inches thick at its base, creamy flowers in great fluffy bunches to its very top, its leaves narrow and plain like the leptospermum foliage. Nearby the well known shrubby *Acacia cultriformis.* Two varieties very similar, *Acacia linesta* and *Acacia linearis* were not in full bloom—the *Acacia linearis* is the more promising of the two varieties. *Acacia visdula,* two specimens, not in full bloom also a shapely shrub, *Acacia Betchii,* a summer bloomer, tall and thin in habit with fine foliage. *Acacia discolor,* a fall bloomer that only showed a spray or two of color. Its habit and foliage in strong contrast to the other varieties. *Acacia armata* at the corner of the property, a huge prostrate shrub armed as its name signifies. *Acacia obtusa,* a bushy, compact shrub with the very smallest of plain leaves, ¼ inch or less, very full of artistically branched and elongated sprays full of tiny yellow balls. The typically branched and feathered leaf type of an Acacia tree near the lathhouse was *Acacia pubescens.* This is the variety grown in all colder climates beneath glass, for its fragrant and plume-like flowers in March. This plant was in perfect bloom in the open this February 25th. A strong proof of our fine climate. *Acacia Baileyana,* one of the best tree forms for home gardens, was out of bloom. The dry season wrecked its buds. *Acacia pendula* with its silvery pendulous foliage was labeled but the several plants in San Diego have never bloomed—who will explain why? Cut specimens of *Acacia podalyriaefolia* practically out of bloom and a very dwarf variety *Acacia decora* were in display.

All Acacias should be quite heavily pruned back when the blossoms have faded. The new growth develops making a rapid growth which sets its new flowers in the late summer and early fall awaiting cooler weather and early rains. This dry fall and winter has produced wrong conditions.

The 10 foot Silver tree—*Leucadendron argenteum*—a native of Table Mountain, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, and the South African heather group in the garden were plants of special interest to the visitors, also a double pink flowering plum in full bloom. The Silver Tree succeeds near the coast in Southwest California. It must have well-drained and deep soil and be watered chiefly by winter rains. It is a diecious plant and this specimen bears the staminate flowers. The pistillate plant produces beautiful silver cones.

CORONADO FLOWER SHOW, APRIL 7 AND 8

Coronado's annual flower show will be held the week end of April 7th and 8th, in the east plaza of the park. There will be a parade Saturday afternoon and the towns of the county have been invited to enter floats. New canvas, for housing the show, has been ordered and the show promises to be bigger and better than ever. Those desiring information about entries are requested to contact Mr. H. A. Taylor, Chairman of the entries committee.

REPORT OF FEBRUARY MEETING

Clifford G. Tanner spoke before the San Diego Floral Association meeting February 20 on the subject of rose culture. Provided with gloves, clippers and some old rose bushes he demonstrated the proper way to prune roses and how to spread the roots for planting. Mr. Tanner insists that roses be planted in beds with not more than two feet between each plant. The soil must be prepared far enough in advance to allow for firm packing as the roots need solid earth to take hold in. He frowns on any cultivation of the soil after planting. Instead of pulling weeds which tends to loosening the soil he recommends a flat sharp hoe to clip the weeds off. The nice little basins some of us have had around our rose bushes are all wrong and the ground should be perfectly flat, and after the rose is planted a mulch of three or four inches of cow manure should be put on. After six months this should be brushed off and a fresh coating applied. Watering should be done by overhead sprinkling. As soon as the first leaves appear a light dust bath of nine parts sulphur and one part arsenate of lead should be given once a week to prevent mildew rust or black spot.

After listening to Mr. Tanners' practical talk and being aware of his unquestioned authority on the growing of roses, many of those fortunate enough to hear him stated that they were going to dig up their rose gardens and start all over again—a procedure he advises for unsatisfactory plants.

Miss Kate O. Sessions in her usual inspiring way showed us sprays of many varieties of acacias which are in full bloom at this season. She also emphasized the need of planting native shrubs and plants which flourish even in this very dry season.

C. B. T.

The Iris section of the San Diego Floral Association acknowledge with thanks the donation of twenty-six rhizomes of the first quality from the Chula Vista Iris Society, through the chairman, John A. Monroe, and one each of Purissima, Shasta and San Diego from Carl Salbach of Berkeley, California.

The Old Town Plaza, San Diego

By C. I. JERABEK

. . . The Cradle of California's Beautiful History

OLD Town, San Diego is without a doubt the cradle of California's history. One of the most noteworthy places of interest is the Plaza, dedicated as Washington Square on the plat of Old Town in 1849 and said to contain 1.14 acres.

Here in this quadrangle the official act of ceding the territory to the United States was staged. The land was controlled by Spain, Mexico, the Californians, then finally became a possession of the United States. First the Spanish Flag was lowered and the Mexican Flag raised, then this was brought down to be replaced by the famous Bear Flag, and not long afterwards followed by the stars and Stripes, this flag being officially raised in the late afternoon of July 29, 1846, by Lt. Stephen Clegg Rowan, (executive officer of the U. S. S. Cayne) thus completing the formal annexation of California by the United States.

Between the '50s and '60s this square was the center of the little city's life at that time it was nearly surrounded by stores and residences, the mercantile houses nearly covered the whole block east of the Plaza and a large portion of the buildings west of the square.

To the south was the Estudillo house, to the east the Bandini residence and northwest was the home of Dona Juanita Machado. During the middle of this period the Californians and Americans built several frame buildings one of these being Congress Hall. These dwellings are still standing today but in remodeled form, and only a remnant of the Hall exists.

The end of Old Town as a community of any importance was the great fire of April 20, 1872. This disastrous event consumed all the business places on the plaza, but the square remained the center of the pueblo's life, bullfights, Judas hangings and other thrilling

CASA DE ESTUDILLO PATIO (Ace-too-*dee*-yoh)
Commonly known as "Ramona's Marriage Place". Former home of Don Jose Antonio de Estudillo (Ace-too-dee-yoh) and his wife, Spanish aristocrates who were married in 1825. Used as a sanctuary by the women and children during the battle in connection with American occupation in 1846.

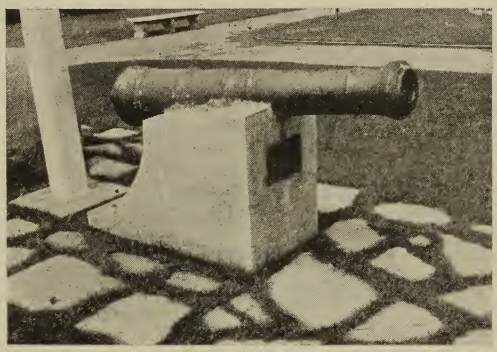
PLAZA, SAN DIEGO VIEJO
The Plaza was the center of community life and the place where bull fights, Judas hangings. Indian games, law trials, and crude councils were held after the formation of the pueblo of San Diego in 1835.

CASA DE MACHADO
This excellent example of adobe construction was built by Corporal Jose Manual Machado (Mah-chah-doe) for his daughter, Maria Antonia Machado de Silvas (Seel-vahs).

sports were carried on. Then as the majority of the residents moved to what is now the business center of San Diego, the plaza lapsed into a place of weeds, old papers and other rubbish. Then probably came a sport of civic pride when a row of eucalyptus and a few pepper trees were planted around this square. Again the place was neglected but the trees grew on until they were fifty feet or more high.

Though just as good people lived in old Town as in any other part of the city, the people of San Diego in general looked down upon the community. Then came men of vision building flower-shops, stores, oil-stations and auto-courts. They formed a civic club, and changed the name of Old Town to North San Diego.

In 1928 their enthusiasm was at fever heat, they even had dreams of a civic center. Why not? Was not this the hub of San Diego? Go in any direction and you would find it to be about eleven miles to the city limits. The avenue bordering the plaza was to be widened, double its former width, the Park Department was persuaded to beautify this square. The citizens wanted a Spanish Garden so a wall was built around the place. Inside nature and man lavished their handiwork.



EL CAPITAN
in The Plaza San Diego Viejo.
Cast in Manila in 1783. Brought to San Diego. Captured by Commodore Robert F. Stockton in 1846.

The straggling trees took on new life. A few native and many exotic trees were planted. Shrubs were planted, grass seed was sown, and in the center of the plot two attractive cactus beds were created.

And now five years have passed and it has become a beautiful garden of sunshine and flowers. The plant life is wonderfully diversified for so small a park with continuous bloom every month in the year, while during November and December the poinsettia have a period of gaudy predominance.

In January there may be seen the Escallonia berteriana with its panicles of white flowers also Habrothamnus elegans whose arching branches are covered with crimson bloom. Tecoma capensis shows flowers of glowing scarlet and Polygaly dalmaisana, a shrub with the blossoms pea-shaped and magenta-pink in color.

Drooping over the wall are Plumbago capensis producing myriads of delicate azure-blue flowers. Streptosolen Jamesoni with a profusion of deep orange and yellow funnel-shaped flowers. Solanum rantonetti is also there, covered with great quantities of violet-blue flowers.

Then comes February, the shortest month of the year, bringing the fuzzy blossoms of the various acacias. There is the Genista racemosa absolutely covered with pea-shaped, bright yellow flowers; Ceanothus thrysiflorus with its glossy leaves and airy, deep blue flowers; Veronicas of various shades, also Pittosporum tobira, the creamy flowers filling the air with an aroma similar to orange blossoms.

When you think of the month of March in the East you probably shiver, but not in this climate. March is the time for the Melaleucas to come forth in all their glory, many are the variations in foliage and color of the bottle-brush shaped blossoms. Then there is that eye-arresting shrub, Stenolobiumstans, having racemes or panicles of showy, deep yellow, funnel-formed flowers. Iochroma tubulosum with drooping clusters of purple blossoms and the striking flowers of the Hibiscus sinensis which attract the eye of nearly all new comers.

And so one could go on enumerating from month to month, but mere mentioning of these shrubs or trees can give no idea of their beauties. Then there are the cactus beds where quite frequently you will see a humming bird flitting from flower to flower and seldom people tire of watching them.

In this little park is profound peace and quiet, the warm sunshine is tempered by the fresh cool sea breezes blowing in from San Diego and Mission Bays. Many persons come into this little haven to rest, eat their lunch, or perhaps to take a siesta. Sometimes the children tarry on their way to and from school, romping upon the lawn or playing upon the old cannon or granite boulders, monuments of by-gone days.

What now has happened? Other men with other visions! This time they said, "We must have a million dollar entrance into our beautiful city." So after more dreaming, scheming and planning, on December last a new highway from the north was opened leading into San Diego but leaving the business district and the Plaza of North San Diego almost isolated to traffic.

Here is the question? Will this place settle back to the peaceful day of yore or will it some day be surrounded by beautiful homes and gardens? As the Mexicans say—"¿Quien Sabe?" (Who knows)?

"CALTHA PALUSTRIS"

It was interesting to read in the January issue of "California Garden" a fuller history of Caltha palustris var. montrosa. For some years it has been grown in the pools of Marin County and adjoining counties. But although it is often displayed with a flourish and with the proud identification "from the Vatican gardens" little else of its origin seems to be known.

The few nurserymen who handle it refer to it as the "giant marsh marigold." Perhaps those who have seen the double form will let the readers of "California Garden" know when and where.

This giant variety is a pleasant reminder of the gleaming yellow masses which shine from eastern boglands, even while these are gripped in frost and edged with ice.

LESTER ROWNTREE,
Carmel, California.

Premium List . . .

Twenty-Seventh Annal Spring Flower Show, Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15, 1934, Main Plaza, Balboa Park. Opening Saturday 2 p. m., Admission 25c

SECTION A—AMATEURS

* 1. Best collection of Roses, 25 varieties, two blooms each. Association Cup.
* 2. Best Collection of Roses, 12 varieties, two blooms each. American Rose Society Silver Medal.
* 3. Best Collection of Roses, 6 varieties, two blooms each. American Rose Society Bronze medal. NOTE: No person may exhibit in more than one of Classes 1, 2 and 3.
4. Best Six White Roses, one variety.
5. Best Six Red Roses, one variety.
6. Best Six Yellow Roses, one variety.
7. Best Six Yellow Shaded Roses, one variety.
8. Best Six Pink Roses, one variety.
9. Best Six Pink Shaded Roses, one variety.
10. Best Six Flame Colored Roses, one variety. (Example, Mme. Herriott)
11. Best Three White Roses, one variety.
12. Best Three Red Roses, one variety.
13. Best Three Yellow Roses, one variety.
14. Best Three Yellow Shaded Roses, one variety.
15. Best Three Pink Roses, one variety.
16. Best Three Pink Shaded Roses, one variety.
17. Best Three Flame Colored Roses, one variety.
18. Best One White Rose.
19. Best One Red Rose.
20. Best One Yellow Rose.
21. Best One Yellow Shaded Rose.
22. Best One Pink Rose.
23. Best One Pink Shaded Rose.
24. Best One Flame Colored Rose.
25. Best Display of Single Roses.
26. Best Display of Polantha or Baby Roses.
27. Best Display of Climbing Roses.
28. Best Rose introduced in 1933.
* 29. Best Arranged Vase Bowl or Dish of Roses.
* 30. Best Arranged Basket of Roses, one variety. American Rose Society membership.
* 31. Best Arranged Basket of Roses, more than one variety. American Rose Society Bronze medal.

* **BEST ROSE IN THE SHOW (San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal).**

SECTION B—Iris

* 32. a-Artistic display in baskets, not more than 20 stalks beardless or bulbous iris. Points 10-5-3.
* b-Artistic display in bowl, not more than 20 stalks beardless or bulbous iris. 10-5-3.
* c-Artistic display in vase, not more than 10 stalks of beardless or bulbous iris. 5-3-1.
* d-Artistic display in low dish, not more than 10 stalks beardless or bulbous iris. 5-3-1.
* 33. a-Artistic display in basket, not more than 20 stalks bearded iris. 10-5-3.
* b-Artistic display in bowl, not more than 20 stalks of bearded iris. 10-5-3.
* c-Artistic display in vase of not more than 10 stalks bearded iris. 5-3-1.
* d-Artistic display in low dish, not more than 10 stalks bearded iris. 5-3-1.

Specimen Stalks of Bearded Iris Only

Points 5-3-1

34. a-White self.
b-White bi-color.
c-White plicata.
35. a-Pink lavender self.
b-Pink lavender bi-color.
36. a-Blue lavender self.
b-Blue lavender bi-color.
37. a-Red purple self.
b-Red purple bi-color.
38. a-Blue purple self.
b-Blue purple bi-color.
39. a-Blends self.
b-Blends light bi-color.
c-Blends dark self.
d-Blends dark bi-color.
40. a-Yellow self.
b-Yellow bi-color.
c-Yellow plicata.

Group II
(Not open to exhibitors in Group III)

Collection of Bearded Iris

*Trophy awarded for Greatest number of points in Group Two.

41. *a-Collection of 10 distinct varieties beardless iris, one stalk 10-5-3.
*b-Collection of 5 varieties beardless iris, one stalk each. 5-3-1.

Collections of Beardless Iris

42. *a-Collection of 40 distinct varieties. 40-20-10.
*b-Collection of 20 distinct varieties 20-10-5.
*c-Collection of 10 distinct varieties. 10-5-3.
*d-Collection of 5 distinct varieties 5-3-1.

Collections of Bulbous Iris

43. a-Collection of Bulbous iris not less than 10 varieties. 10-5-3.
b-Collection of bulbous iris not less than 5 varieties. 5-3-1.

Group III
(Not open to exhibitors in Group II)

*A. I. S. Membership awarded non-member securing greatest number of points in Group Three.

44. *a-Collection of 10 distinct varieties, one stalk each. 10-5-3.
*b-Collection of 5 distinct varieties, one stalk each. 5-3-1.
*c-Collection from exhibitor who has not exhibited in Floral Association show before.
*d-Collection of not less than 5 beardless iris. 5-3-1.
*e-Collection of not less than 5 bulbous iris. 5-3-1.

45. Iris bed or garden. (Open class.) Iris Sweepstakes (Trophy. See Rule 14) American Iris Society Bronze Medal.

SECTION C—AMATEURS
Sweet Peas

* 46. Best Collection Sweet Peas, 10 stems each vase. Harris Seed Co. Trophy.
47. Best Vase Sweet Peas, White.
48. Best Vase Sweet Peas, Cream and Yellow Shades.
49. Best Vase Sweet Peas, Red and Red Shades.
50. Best Vase Sweet Peas, Pink and Pink Shades.
51. Best Vase Sweet Peas, Lavender and Blue Shades.
52. Bed Vase Sweet Peas, Purple and Maroon Shades.
53. Best Vase Sweet Peas, Salmon and Orange Shades.
54. Best Vase Sweet Peas, Bi-color. (In Classes 47 to 55 inclusive, 15 Stems each vase).
55. Best Arranged Bowl of Sweet Peas.
56. Best Arranged Basket of Sweet Peas.

* **SWEET PEA SWEEPSTAKES, San Diego Floral Association, Bronze Medal.**

SECTION D
MISCELLANEOUS
Amateurs

57. Best Arranged Basket of Flowers Other Than Roses, Wild Flowers or Sweet Peas.
58. Best Arrangement of Flowers in Pewter Container.
59. Best Arranged Bowl or Dish of Flowers in Shades of Yellow.
60. Best Arranged Bowl or Dish of Flowers in Shades of Pink.
61. Best Arranged Bowl or Dish of Flowers in Shades of Lavender and Blue.
62. Best Arrangement of Flowers in Vase, Bowl or Dish.
63. Best Arrangement of White Flowers in White or Silver Container.
64. Best Arrangement of Flowers in Copper or Brass Containers.

* **Sweepstakes Classes 57-64. 1st and 2nd Prizes.**

65. Best French Bouquet.
66. Best Individual Specimen of Decorative Plant.
67. Best Cut Specimen Flowering Vine.
68. Best Collection of Bulb Flowers, six or more varieties.
69. Best Display of Gladioli.
70. Best Display of Pansies.
71. Best Display of Violas.
72. Best Display of Delphiniums.

* **Sweepstakes Classes 66-72 inclusive.**

75. Best Display of Stocks.
74. Best Display of Snapdragons.
75. Best Display of Calendulas.
76. Best Display of Larkspurs.
77. Best Display of Fuchias.
78. Best Display of Any Other Flowers not otherwise classified.

* **Sweepstakes Classes 73-78 inclusive.**

79. Best-Collection of Begonias, Ferns and Other Lathhouse Plants.
80. Best Specimen Maidenhair Fern.
* 81. Best Dining Table Decoration.
* 82. Best Display from Civic, State or National Institution.

SECTION E—GENERAL
Open to All Competition

* 90. Still Life Flower Pictures in Shadow Boxes.
* 84. Best Displayed Collection of Succulents.
* 85. Best Displayed Collection of Cacti.
* 86. Best Rock Garden Suitably Planted.
* 87. Best Dish or Tray Garden.
* 88. Best Miniature Garden. Limit 18x24 inches.

SECTION F
PROFESSIONALS

* 89. Best Display of Cut Roses.
90. Best Displayed Collection of Rose Bushes in Bloom.
* 91. Best General Display of Cut Flowers Other Than Roses.
* 92. Best Displayed Collection of Shrubs and Plants.
93. Best Display of Bulb Flowers.
94. Best Exhibit of Gladioli.
* 95. Best Collection of Begonias, Ferns and other Lathhouse plants.
96. Best Hanging Basket for Lathhouse or Porch.
97. Best Collection of Aloes in Bloom.
99. Best Collection Garden Pottery.

SECTION G
(Entries by Florists)

*100. Best Arranged Basket, Bowl or Vase of Cut Flowers.

* **OUTSTANDING DISPLAY IN SHOW, San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.**

*Classes in which Trophies are offered. Ribbons for first and second in all classes.

SHOW RULES

1. ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE IN PLACE AND PROPERLY ENTERED BY 11 A. M. OF FIRST DAY OF THE SHOW SO THAT JUDGING MAY BE COMPLETED AND AWARDS MADE BEFORE OPENING. NO EXHIBITOR WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT WHILE JUDGING IS GOING ON.
2. All entries must be in the hands of the Clerks by 9 A. M. of the first day of Show. Clerks will be on duty at 7:30 A. M. and entries will be received at any time between these hours.
3. All exhibits must be labeled with the correct names of the plants on white cards 2x3 inches, which will be furnished without charge. Names of exhibitors in competitive classes positively must not appear on exhibits until after awards have been made. (Entries in Class 82 excepted from this rule.)
4. Exhibits are, from the commencement of the Show, under the jurisdiction of the Show officials and no exhibit shall be removed before the close of the Show without the authority of the official in charge.
5. Entries will not be considered by the judges unless meritorious.
6. Exhibits can be entered in one class only.
7. The committee on awards is authorized to give suitable award for any meritorious exhibit not inincluded in the Classes named.
8. Vases are loaned without charge for cut flowers in the competitive classes.
9. All pot plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor at least three months; all other flowers and plants must have been grown by the exhibitor, except where used for table decorations.
10. Dining table decorations will be judged on the arrangement of the

(Continued on Page 8)

Ice Plants, New and Old

By K. O. SESSIONS

. . . *A Comprehensive Review of the Available Varieties*

The Iceplant, the common weed of our gardens, has a beautiful rival from the far distant Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. It is an annual like our own, but has larger, more brilliant and varied colored flowers. Our local one is named *Mesembryanthemum crystalinum* because its leaves are covered with large crystal-like drops. This new arrival has much smaller crystal-like drops that are not conspicuous on the foliage. Its botanical name is *Mesembryanthemum criniflorum,* and its latest and revised name is *Dorotheanthus criniflorus.*

There are about 400 species of the Mesembryanthemums and they have been broken up into about a dozen or more new genera so we must learn the new names if we are to be honor students in botany. The seed of *M. criniflorum* which I imported last season has produced an abundance of plants that will soon be in full bloom and prove their beauty and desirability for a permanent home with us. All Mesembryanthemums hold their seed pods very tight in dry weather—quite the contrary of other seed pods—but with the first rain the pods open and the seeds scatter and the growing season begins at once and this new variety becomes a late winter and early spring bloomer. It should not take long for it to become quite common, and an excellent plant for parking spaces and bare places. The plant becomes 8 to 12 inches in diameter, and of a large variety of colors and combinations. Our common ice plant has small white flowers and its old foliage takes on the coloring of red and bronze that makes it attractive and conspicuous only late in the summer season. Its leaves are quite broad and fleshy and the new variety has more slender leaves and is a darker shade of green. There will be quite a demonstration and test of the *M. criniflorum* along the main and west front walk at the Aloe and Agave Garden in Balboa Park. The seed has been broadcast there and some plants established in pots have been planted.

The Mesembryanthemums, with a few exceptions, are natives of South Africa and are becoming better known each year and are most promising as ground covers for Southern California in particular, for they will not survive any low temperature. A few are ever bloomers—some winter bloomers—and the majority summer bloomers, and all flourish in sunny locations. The name mesembryanthemum implies, noon-day flower. A few are in bloom in the afternoon only and a few open at night. The winter bloomers in cultivation here are *M. aureum,* with a large bright orange flower, an upright and shrubby grower—12 inches high—and makes a colorful and superior border. *M. laeve* bears a choice light buff flower and is a small, low grower with a good green foliage. *M. Alstonii* bears the choicest of brilliant red flowers with stems 3 to 5 inches long. The foliage is decidedly glaucous and finger like and the plant spreads to 12 inches in a year but does not make a large plant. *M. filicaule* bears a low dark green foliage like fleshy grass and its choice lavender - pink flowers completely cover the foliage. This variety should be a great success around large stepping stones and in parking spaces. Filicaule means threadlike stem. *M. tenufolia* bears a large brilliant purple bloom and is a spreading, bushy grower. Its intense color is like the purple Bougainvillea—hard to harmonize near other colors, and should have an isolated location and only white flowering plants adjacent. The *M. Eklonis* is an *ever bloomer* with a fine light green foliage of a spreading habit and has small white flowers. *M. croceum,* another ever bloomer, is a strong grower with a spreading habit —its foliage like small glaucous fingers and its two-inch silky copper-colored blossoms are extra fine. When the blossom is closed for the day the petals show a magenta shade. It has been growing here only three years from imported seed and has become one of the most popular. Another ever bloomer is a coarse but small plant, *M. linguaforme,* tongue shaped; it has bright and large yellow flowers.

The summer bloomers are many and those well known here are decidedly strong growers with larger and coarser foliage—flowers ranging from the dark crimson color to choice light pink shades and white. The light-colored varieties are in better harmony with garden colorings and more desirable, while the crimson sorts should be kept in the distance or near green and white only. There are a few that make bushy plants and the very choicest here and not common is *M. speciosum.* Its light-green coral-like foliage is completely covered with its brilliant coppery red and shaded flowers. It is conspicuous a long distance when in bloom. Small plants set two feet apart make a solid hedge, two feet high and wide in two years.

The Mesembryanthemums planted around the cross in Presidio Park have made a very excellent showing—whites and coppery shades are in harmony and a fine variety of foliage, and an excellent planting for the sloping location. At the Aloe and Agave Garden in Balboa Park the collection of Mesembryanthemums is steadily increasing and in one year's time the sloping sides above the hillside road makes an excellent showing, although the rabbits have been very destructive to several varieties. The low and small growers are being established among the Agaves for covering the bare ground. K. O. SESSIONS.

IRIS EXHIBIT TO BE FEATURED AT CHULA VISTA

John A. Monroe, chairman of the Chula Vista Iris Club, has completed plans for the exhibit to be staged during the Chula Vista Community Flower Show which will be held in May. Attractive trophies are offered in the many classes in the premium list and every one growing iris is invited to enter. Rules will follow those as published in the American Iris bulletin, "Exhibition Policy and Management 1933." All iris must be named varieties and only one exhibit from any one garden may be entered in any one class. The judge for iris will be Mrs. Lena M. Lothrop, San Bernardino, Calif., accredited judge A.I.S.

Peat Moss . . .

By ADA PERRY

. . . *January Meeting Devoted to Discussion of Peat Moss*

THE peat moss mines of Germany with their layers of moisture-holding material so useful in Southern California gardening were graphically described to the January Floral Association meeting by H. O. Ketner.

Sphagnum moss creates these mines, he said, growing layer upon layer for many ages. Clean water and the low, constant temperature make the peat the sanitary material it is. When mined, the uncured top layers of the stuff are scraped away, drainage ditches dug and compressed chunks of peat of the right quality are cut out and piled to one side to condition for as long as 18 months. At the end of the proper time the peat is run through a sieve and then screened for three uses—gardening, poultry litter and stock bedding.

The suggestions Ketner made for using peat moss were many and valuable. He advised a regular proportion of 25% and not more than 50%. The soil should first be turned over, he said, and then pulverized to the best of one's ability, then the peat moss spread on evenly and forked in. About four inches is right for lawns, six inches for garden and as much as desired for shrub and tree planting. He heartily concurred with Miss Sessions' rule for putting in the last two, which is: Spend $5 for the hole and then buy what you're putting in it; the idea being that a 50-cent shrub or tree can grow in a $5 hole but a $5 plant can't grow in a 50-cent hole, unless one is the inadvertent possessor of a piece of perfect soil, something that can happen of course but doesn't.

Peat endures in ground or potting soil for a long time, Ketner says, unless lime or nitrogen is used to "break it down." When these materials are used it may become an active fertilizing substance. Otherwise it is not and fertilizer should be incorporated with it.

The specific values of peat as a partner with soil were listed by Ketner as follows:

It corrects the physical condition of the soil. It holds moisture and, as a consequence, provides for the release of plant food. It promotes the growth of necessary plant bacteria, the while bringing none of the harmful varieties with it; and it fosters root growth to a remarkable degree.

He stressed the convenience of the moss for home gardens where every inch of space must or should look well and remarked on its equally good effects with adobe or sand. He said fertilizer should be undoubtedly used also when treating sand with peat.

An extra use for peat moss was packing for dahlia tubers, he added, and said that the tubers can be sprouted for planting in the material with equal success when storing time is over.

Miss Sessions was an interested listener to Ketner's talk, although she refused to have faith in the chunk of adobe he brought with him as a sample, peat or no peat.

She introduced some grand sources of winter color in plants here in the Kalanchoes tubularflor, globulifera and minima and Aloes Hanburiana, salmdickiana, ferox, Cameroni and spinosissima. She also advised on the pruning of bignonia venusta, saying the laterals should be trimmed back to six inch stubs for long trusses of bloom.

Aloe cuttings, she reminded the meeting, should be dried for a week before planting.

Mr. Peter Barnhart and several other speakers made short addresses. The meeting was saddened by the announcement of the passing of two most valuable members of the Association and well known San Diego citizens—Walter Birch, Sr., and Walter S. Merrill.

FLOWER SHOW RULES

(Continued from Page 6)

flowers and appropriate accessories.

11. In classes where a given number of blooms is specified any excess or deficiency of count shall constitute cause for disqualification.
12. SWEET PEAS will be judged by length of stem, color, size, substance and number of flowers on stems.
13. ROSES will be judged in accordance with the standards of the American Rose Society.
14. IRIS will be judged in accordance with the standards of the American Iris Society.
15. Class 86, ROCK GARDENS to be 40%; adaptabiliay of material, 20%; distinctiveness, 15%; quality of material, 15%; color effect, 10%.
16. A Display is an arrangement for quality and artistic effect.
17. A Collection is a variety of meritorious kinds brought together.

(Continued on Page 14)

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We have faith in San Diego as an outlet for German and Holland peat moss because we know that practically every foot of ground here needs it.

So we have built a lawn on part of the park at F and India Streets and have given it to the City so you can see what German or Holland peat moss will do.

This is how the lawn was built:

Removed the Bermuda grass sod.
Removed the soil one spade depth below the sod.
Placed the sod upside down in the trench where the soil was removed.
Replaced the soil over the sod.
Rolled, plowed and cultivated the soil until we had the desired grade.
Spread pulverized peat moss evenly over the ground, one bale for each 200 square feet, and cultivated this into the upper 4 inches of soil.
Spread 5 pounds fish and blood meal over each 100 square feet and raked it in one inch deep. The fertilizer was supplied without charge by American Fisheries Company. Seeded with one pound blue grass and clover mixture to each 200 square feet, raked this in very lightly and rolled the ground.
Kept the surface moist with a misty spray twice daily until the seed was well germinated.
Please watch this plot of grass grow.
Ask your seed or feed dealer for German peat moss. For additional information including detailed cultural instructions, write

Peat Import Corp.

H. O. Ketner
Mgr. Pacific Coast Branch
520 Taylor Street,
San Francisco

Persistent Organic Matter . . .

By H. O. KETNER

. . . A Treatise on the Value and Use of Peat Moss

It wasn't part of Nature's plan that the far reaches of soil in the San Diego territory should be plentifully supplied with organic matter. A soothing sunshine, tempered always with a breeze from Old Ocean, makes us glad we didn't die when we had the measles, and causes vegetation to be just a wee bit greener in San Diego than in many other sections. But we couldn't have every advantage, so Nature imposed on us the absolute necessity of supplying organic matter for our soil.

Most of us till the soil for the satisfaction we get out of it. Window boxes, lawns, gardens, or even large plantations, are more often our hobby than the result of absolute necessity. But assuming that our labor in the soil is for bread and butter aren't the results obtained usually the source of our satisfaction as well? If you grant this then let me ask some more pointed questions. Is there the joy of achievement in a brown patch where there should be a green lawn? Do we bubble with satisfaction as we ponder over a rose bed that produces only inferior blossoms? Is there nourishment in the contemplation of a vegetable garden whose plants never reach production maturity? Can we glow with health from the fruit of an orange tree whose leaves are yellow and whose blossoms seldom produce fruit?

I am sure that most CALIFORNIA GARDEN readers know the absolute necessity of organic matter in all productive soil. The finest soil for horticultural purposes is a well proportioned mixture of both mineral and organic substances of a satisfactory texture. Of course such soil, to be productive, must be free from harmful substances such as excessive acid or alkali and must contain a plentiful supply of plant food. But organic matter in the soil may be either too new or too nearly returned to earth to be of any practical value.

German or Holland peat moss is a form of organic matter sufficiently decomposed so that it cannot possibly heat, free from detrimental substances or germs of any nature, and at such a curative stage that it is best suited for horticultural purposes. It has the peculiar property of being able to absorb and retain more moisture than any other known kind of organic matter. It is free from fibrous and woody material prevalent in similar material from other countries.

German or Holland peat moss is the most permanent soil organic matter known. Under ordinary conditions it has been found still unchanged in the soil where plants requiring a plentiful supply of water have been growing in it for five years. If it will completely change the nature of either adobe or sandy soil for so long a time, so that a beautiful loam is formed, we may reasonably ask how much longer it will work for us without breaking down.

Organic matter of such permanence is of unusual value always, and of particular value under certain conditions. If properly used in a new lawn it will be unnecessary to do the lawn over again for many years. Thoroughly mixed with the soil when planting shrubbery or trees it will keep the soil loose and prevent them from becoming root-bound. This applies to orchard work as well as home use.

Give your soil serious consideration and see if you have not been overlooking the value of organic matter. If you have neglected this absolute necessity you will find that German or Holland peat moss properly applied will do for you practically overnight what you might have accomplished by the use of some other forms of organic matter during a period of many years.

FUCHSIA SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS

Mrs. W. H. Ware was elected President, and Miss Alice Eastwood, (botanist of the California Academy of Sciences) Secretary and Treasurer of the California Fuchsia Society, at a recent meeting of the organization.

Gardener's Guide

ALL who read Richardson Wright's first "Gardener's Bed Book" will seize upon "Another Gardener's Bed Book" with relish. Cast in the same mould as the first, this volume is a second crop of "short and long pieces for those who garden by day and read by night."

Beginning with January 1st, each day is allotted a short paragraph and a terse remark in italics. And the end of the month gets a "long piece." The book will be read with delight by any degree of gardener or by one who is no gardener at all, for it is a pot-pourri of horticultural helps, literary quotations and references, cooking recipes, philosophical speculations and tirades on the pink-tea type of garden clubs.

The "shorts," the "longs" and the aphorisms in italics may tell us to use dried blood instead of manure for ranunculus; or, when we cut down delphiniums, to plug the hollow stems with mud to prevent rotting; or, how to make soup. They may contain a satire on broken-glass gardens; warn a wife not to address her husband when he is pruning climbing roses; advocate gardening competitions for station masters; or voice a pathetic plea for longer and sturdier towels (not trowels—towels). They may treat of Miss Jeky!l's shoes, defend disreputable gardening clothes, or offer the very pertinent suggestion that the ladies whose "only knowledge of flowers is the way to arrange them" be given seed packets and trowels as prizes for said arrangements. Or Mr. Wright may present us with a "Sunday Thought on Good Taste," a scheme for abolishing moles, a valuable list of scented geraniums or his "own conviction, which I gladly shout from the house-tops, that the man who doesn't garden hasn't begun to live."

Richardson Wright pretty well reviews his own book (published by J. B. Lippincott, $2.50) when he calls it "a strange mixture of apparently unrelated affairs. A common flower is cheek-by-jowl with an uncommon sentiment with ribaldry and the whole powdered with architecture and domesticalities and dabs of music and whatnot."

The book has some really valuable suggestions for Garden Club Topics—hybridizing, for instance. And "for Heaven's sake," he says, "do some original work on your paper. Don't merely copy data out of books."

Also it has useful literary references, choice quotations from old gardening books and spicy bits about their authors. Mr. Wright dives into an ancient volume of garden lore and comes out with some especially dainty morsel to present to us. Some of his own "long pieces" are complete little classics. It is a book to teach and to amuse —a book of well-turned phrases, using the right word in the right place—a human book full of human touches.

LESTER ROWNTREE,
Carmel, California.

Climbing Roses . . .

By C. G. TANNER

. . . *Climbing Roses Create Pleasing Effects in Gardens*

The varied effects that can be produced by the properly trained climbing rose place it on the list of plant subjects useful for garden building.

For the Wall and the Trellis

To train roses on a wall, tie the first main shoots in a horizontal position and allow the secondary or side branches to supply the upright growth. In the case of varieties showing a weak secondary growth, a succession of horizontal branches should be trained to secure a solid effect. This method of handling climbing roses is somewhat different from the customary idea of getting the climber up over the top as soon as possible, only to leave the lower area quite bare. The horizontal training of roses will cover the entire surface. Trellises should be covered in the same manner in order to furnish a complete screen when completed.

Climbing Etoile de Hollande, Billy Boiler and Blaze in red; Vicomtesse Pierre du Feu, Cl. Shot Silk and Kitty Kininmonth in pink; and Mme. Boullet, Cl. Golden Emblem and Cl. Souvenir de Claudius Pernet in yellow; are a few of the uncommon climbers that have good foliage and furnish fine cutting roses.

Along roadsides and at prominent points on large estates, climbing roses permitted to develop freely into large bush forms and judiciously pruned are exceedingly pleasing. This use of climbing roses will give width and height as in shrubbery planting and large areas can be maintained effectively in a flowering condition over a long period.

As large shrub roses, Climbing Los Angeles, Cl. Dame Edith Helen and Cl. Rose Marie are outstanding in their ability to produce an abundance of bloom.

Pillar roses emphasize prominent points of the garden in a most striking manner. This type of plant requires constant attention to keep a uniform shape and a continuous bloom. Moderate climbers and strong bush types may be used. Ednah Thomas, Talisman, Pres. Hoover, Vesuvius and Paul's Lemon Pillar are excellent.

Climbers, with delicate foliage and dainty flowers in clusters, budded on tree rose stock are called weeping standards; but create a cheerful shower of bloom. There is a limited use for this type, because a too obvious placement is to be avoided. However, when well placed in the planting scheme it presents a delightful effect. Phyllis Bide and Cascadia have the most ideal growth and bloom for this treatment.

Disease resistant foliage is a determining factor in the choice of roses for a ground-cover. Here, the Mermaid ranks high. One plant, under proper conditions, will cover 500 square feet the first season. Throughout the year, its cream-colored blooms open above the dark green foliage.

The large top produced on climbing roses should have more food and water than ordinarily is given them. The plants should have a good soaking at least once a week throughout the season unless there are rains. A generous feeding of bone meal during the winter and a heavy application of fresh cow manure the later part of February and again during August will keep the plant in a thrifty condition.

Annuals for the Summer Garden

By JAMES COWIE

. . . Now is the Time to Plant Summer Annuals

The belated rains have left the soil easily tillable so do not delay in setting out the young plants for the late spring and summer cut flower garden. Poor success with seed beds can be conveniently overcome through the welcome services of the bedding plant specialist who supplies your seedsmen or nurseryman with sturdy young plants in infinite variety in flats, from which they are retailed to you singly or by the dozen or hundred.

In compiling your variety list add at least a few of the new varieties. Try the new petunia Pink Gem. It is a dwarf grower, compact, and a profuse bloomer. It is exceptionally satisfactory as a pot plant. The annual Canterbury Bell should be a welcome addition to your garden since it will no longer be necessary to wait a year to obtain bloom as with the perennial. They come in pink, white and blue. For large flower arrangements it is hard to duplicate.

The new red salpiglossis will make a conspicuous showing wherever it is planted. The bright color is distinctly different and it's beauty is enhanced by the wonderful velvet sheen of the flower.

The new Calendula Sunshine or Crysantha deserves a place in every garden. Crysanthemum-shaped flowers on strong stems gives it a distinction sure to make it very popular with many. The new Marigold, Guinea Gold, was a sensation last season; it should be added to your list. The Super Los Angeles Aster, with its fluffy, delicate shell-pink blooms on long sturdy stems, at least deserves a trial.

New plants and new varieties of plants are offered year after year, and they offer us keen garden enjoyment in their trial but the tried and proven annuals must generally be depended upon for our major bloom crop. Zinnias are indispensable to the summer garden in Southern California. They thrive in the hottest and driest weather, bloom continuously and are available in all colors necessary for any occasion. They come in miniature types such as the Lilliput or the Giants, or the Dahlia Flowered. They demand full sun and copious watering when the young plants are growing lustily. Peat moss worked in the soil in which they are planted gives astonishing results.

Nemesia should be at its best now but plantings can still be made of this very pretty and effective annual. It comes in shades of rose, yellow, orange and blue. It is a useful plant for beds or borders. Pansies offered this year are better than ever. The Giant Swiss Strain tops the list for delicate colors. The size and quality of the blooms leaves little to be desired. This strain has long flower stems making it an excellent subject for bowl arrangements.

Many of the available annuals such as phlox, verbenas, etc., have not been mentioned but they, of course, also have their place in the annual garden. The important thing is to plan and plant your summer annuals now to insure the best results.

The most useful of all the bulbous subjects is the gladiolus; reserve a space for them and you will not regret it. There are so many varieties in a wide range of colors and shades that color schemes can be worked out to satisfy anyone with gladiolus.

WANTED—California Garden Magazines for April and May, 1911, November, 1934.

ON SALE—At all times single copies or complete files of the California Garden.

ROADSIDE TREES

I know a vista wondrous fair,
Adown a broad highway,
Where travelers, seeming unaware,
Go speeding by each day.

Giant trees their boughs are bending,
Shading the roadway there;
Branches swaying, perfume blending
With balmy summer air.

With stately arch the road they've spanned,
More lovely to behold
Than those far-famed, in foreign land,
In temples hoar and old.

In cooling shade this vaulted span
Is stretched along the way,
More fair than any made by man
Where men are wont to pray.

What glorious beauty God has made
In earth and sea and skies;
In all, his love and care displayed
To oft unseeing eyes.

—IDA E. McLEAN

GLADIOLUS SPECIAL

No. 1, corms of the finest varieties including Golden Dream, Copper Bronze, Betty Nuthall, Orange Queen, W. H. Phipps, Mrs. Leon Douglas, Los Angeles, Rose Ash, Virginia, and many others.

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Gerberas Thrive at Encinitas

By ADA PERRY

. . . *Gibson Hybrids Show Amazing Colors*

The town of Encinitas in San Diego County not only shows flowers, but grows them in outstanding quantities.

What is considered the world's largest planting of gerberas or Transvaal daisies is now thriving in Encinitas. Long rows of the big-rooted plants with their swaying daisy heads push into the soil on a rich, sandy hillside. With every passing day they increase in bulk and their amazing flowers become longer stemmed, sturdier in quality and more certain in color variation.

The planting is handled by James H. Harvey of Encinitas and the strain is one developed by Gibson of Riverside. Gibson got his first plants 13 years ago from a famous English seed house. He had seen the daisies displayed in a New York show.

Million Plants Growing

Today in Encinitas the results of this work are blooming every day of the year in 83 hues, weeded from every color but green, blue and black.

As many as 1,000,000 plants are estimated to be growing on the Harvey land. The total acreage they accupy is about six, one field being some three and one-half acres and another two and one-half.

This includes strapping clumps that have been growing for three years in the open ground and tiny seedlings still getting a start inside muslin-covered frames. The seedlings are precocious. They take their own time about germinating and stay under their protecting muslin more than a year.

Adult plants are not so tender. They are watered like cabbages with a rushing stream of irrigating water and cultivated in the same business-like manner. Flowers are constantly cut from them and they are dug up and divided at will. Plants are sent all over the coast and the flowers to San Diego and Los Angeles.

They received a light application of commercial fertilizer when set out, but no organic fertilizer. A few fat cutworms are all the pests they have entertained to date.

Flowers from these Encinitas Gerberas attended 16 shows in southern California in 1933 and the prizes were practically all first and special awards. Secrets are also growing up among them, such as a pure red with a perfectly balanced bloom six inches across and three-foot stem, and a butter yellow with the same qualifications. These will appear in time, to make flower lovers gasp with delight.

Plants having flowers with five distinct rows of petals are not uncommon in the fields.

S. D. UNION

WHY THE AIR FEELS HOTTER OR COLDER THAN THE THERMOMETER INDICATES

Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

Most of us have wondered why the air at times feels hotter or colder than the thermometer indicates. So certain are some the weather is more severe than officially reported, that the Weather Bureau has been accused of "doctoring" its records.

Among climatologists, the temperature experienced by the human body is recognized as the "sensible temperature", and is known to vary from that recorded by the thermometer, the extent of the variation depending upon atmospheric moisture and wind velocity. They generally recognize that low temperatures in warmer climates often feel colder than sub-zero weather in colder areas, exemplified in the fact that natives in the tropics shiver at temperatures that are intolerably high to Europeans.

Statistics of the water vapor content of the air are usually recorded as relative humidity, which defined is the relation of the amount of water vapor present to the amount necessary for saturation at that temperature. Complete dryness is 0%; absolute saturation is 100%; but as the capacity of air for containing moisture increases rapidly with increase of temperature, the relative humidity varies with change in temperature, normally being highest during the warmest part of the day, and lowest during the coldest hours.

When both the temperature and relative humidity are high, and the wind is light, evaporation from the skin is slow, and we feel oppressively warm. But, if the air is dry, very high temperatures are borne without much discomfort. This finds proof in the Imperial Valley where laborers work in the fields regardless of the degree of heat.

On the other hand, moist air absorbs heat more readily than dry air, so cold, humid days impress us as being colder than days with low temperatures and low humidity.

Wind, by increasing evaporation from the skin, brings relief during hot days, but accentuates the cold when low temperatures prevail by carrying away bodily heat. For this reason, when the thermometer registers below freezing, calm dry air is not as uncomfortable as windy moist air.

The Public is cordially invited to visit

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Visiting Hours: 1:30 to 5:00 P.M. excepting Monday

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Encinitas, California

Native Plants for Sandy Soil . . .

By LESTER ROWNTREE

. . . *A Group of Plants Adapted for Special Places*

HOWEVER much we pride ourselves on our native wild flowers, there are some, we must admit, which do not measure up to the standard of garden plants. Either they do not take kindly to cultivation or their bloom is not rewarding enough for the trouble of growing them.

But here are four native plants which are easily made to feel at home in our gardens, and which, when established there, will vie in beauty with the exotics we have always grown.

The majority of California's indigenous plants prefer (and many demand) a light sandy soil. These four are no exceptions. If you attempt to grow them you must meet their requirements.

From the Santa Barbara Islands come Erysimum insulare and Eriogonum giganteum—beauties both. The wallflower, to be seen at its best, should be viewed from a boat off San Miguel Island, where it clothes the steep banks, almost down to the edge of the sea, with yellow. It is proving a very satisfactory plant for seaside gardens on the mainland, for it is a perennial and attractive even when out of bloom. It makes a low, compact and rather wide bush, which is covered in spring with flowers of soft yellow. This wallflower is a good companion plant for the lovely gentian blue Phacelia viscida.

Eriogonum giganteum is a most decorative plant. If you have been to Blakesley Botanic Garden (where all who are interested in our native plants should go) you will have seen its tall and imposing plants fronting the huge granite boulder on your left as you enter the path to the Island Community. And its ornamental quality must have impressed you. At all times of the year this buckwheat, like its companion the rock, stands out as one of the most distinctive and decorative features of the Garden. The plant has very large white-gray leaves and bears, at the ends of long flower-stems, broad flat cymes of creamy-white flowers which are excellent for cutting. This buckwheat appreciates shelter more than the wallflower, and needs as well some humus in the sandy shaly soil.

Growing also in Blakesley Garden are plants of the hybrid mimulus (or diplacus), the widespread Diplacus aurantiacus X Diplacus puniceus of Southern California. These plants in Blakesley are the results, not of the hybridizers' skill but of the bees' activity. They are self-sown hybrids in shades of pink and raspberry, springing up between plantings of their parents. Hand hybridization will give the same results and the progeny favor sometimes the golden buff D. aurantiacus and sometimes the velvety brick red D. puniceus, and few of them are uninteresting enough to be thrown out. These mimulus will thrive in any soil that is fairly acid and not too heavy.

All native herbaceous perennials will need some pruning under cultivation. They need not bring into the garden the awkwardness which in their native haunts is hardly noticeable. Judicious pruning will teach them that in a garden one curbs the abandon permissable in the wilds.

The fourth wild flower for gardens is an annual—a lupin. No, not L. nanus, lovely as it is. It needs no champion. The lupin I am advocating is L. densiflorus var. crinitus, from coastal central California. If you have ever seen the great rifts of it growing along the coasts of Marin and Sonoma counties, you too will wonder why it is so seldom grown in gardens. Heavy-headed and downy, it droops over the banks and sparkles with the fog caught in its leaves and flowers. The thick blunt spikes of bloom are wine-deep in shade, giving at a distance the effect of a stand of richly hued collinsia. In Southern California grow this purple—sometimes light, sometimes lupin in half shade and if possible on a slope. It is lovely at the edge of shrubbery.

The Latest in Garden Books

We have, and probably always will have, a plethora of books on how to make new gardens, but it isn't often that we get one telling us what to do with the garden we have been living with and viewing with increasing discontent, knowing that it is entirely outgrown and that something ought to be done about it.

As our eyes open to old mistakes and new visions we say over and over "If I had known then what I know now—." Well, there is still hope. "New Gardens for Old" (Doubleday, $2.00) shows us the way out.

The authors, H. Stuart Ortloff and Henry B. Raymore, have covered the ground pretty thoroughly. They tell us how to find peace from our dissatisfactions, how to renovate our planting to a point where, instead of suffering gnawing misgivings we will enjoy an uncringing assurance.

Wonder of wonders—this book by eastern landscapers provides keyed plans, lists and sketches of detail for moderate climates. And although little of the new plant material which our gardens need so badly is included in the lists they make a good basis to start from. Moreover, these lists discriminate between plants needing acid soil and plants needing neutral soil—a highly important division which at last is being given is due attention in horticultural literature.

There are some photographs of pleasant plantings as well as the many line drawings by which the authors illustrate their points. This book should do something to break the monotony and take off the curse of that large and ubiquitous crop of gardens spawned about ten years ago and give us some distinction, originality and charm in place of uninterrupted banality. LESTER ROWNTREE.

Water Lilies . . .

By BERTHA M. THOMAS

. . . *A New Viviparous Seedling Water Lily*

THIRTEEN years ago I planted my first Water Lily and I love them more each year—but what a lot I have learned about them in that time. One day I found a pool covered with some queer little floating objects looking like seeds, but I skimmed them all out, mentally raging at the boy who had thrown something in my pool, and a year passed before I knew that a lily really produced seeds. Now the seedlings are my favorite pastime.

You all probably know the Blue Triumph Lily, a California production, and the most popular of all blue lilies. Three years ago I planted some of its seeds and the plants produced were of 15 different varieties—good, bad and middling, and a few were exact duplicates of their parent. But one developed viviparous qualities. It had the true Triumph color, but since the Triumph was not viviparous I waited developments. Am now delighted that I have quite a number of the new plants, grown from the leaves of this plant. It is most interesting to watch this leaf development —a sort of fuzzy little growth appears where the stem joins the leaf. This will develop and soon tiny leaflets will show growing from it. Then some little tiny white roots will appear, and the old original leaf may gradually rot away, or perhaps will patiently stand by while its progeny develops into a real blooming plant.

The Viviparous family is not very large. Panama Pacific is probably the favorite of the class because of its richness of color and late blooming qualities. August Koch is a close second with medium shades of blue. Miss Wilson is a delicate blue. Four years ago the Amethyst was originated and its coloring is true to its name. Dauben is the mother of all this class and originated in Germany. It is robust in growth but a light blue and fades out too much. One pink one came out a few years ago but I have had no experience with it. All of these multiply also by a new bulb at base, although rarely, but they also seed very commonly.

The tiny seeds will fall to the bottom of the pool and grow naturally if you have few fish there to disturb them, or if your pool contains tropical fish only, as these are more quiet in their movements and do not disturb nor devour the tiny plants. But it is best to pot up seedlings as the third leaf appears. Or one can gather the lily seed pod just before it bursts and hold in a container, thus saving all of the seed, and plant where you can easily care for it. It will germinate in 21 days if fresh. The hardy lilies seldom form seed pods, but all Tropicals seem to be very generous, and this also includes the night bloomers. One year I picked an extra large seed pod from the Juno Night Bloomer and found about 1500 seeds in it. Usually you may expect seedlings to be similar in color—in some degree—to their parent, but there is no surety. One of the handsomest pink Tropicals I have is a seedling from a blue lily. It will take at least two years of patient labor and watching to fully determine whether a seedling is a worthwhile one. Three times out of four it will be worthless, but oh! the joy of that possible fourth one. And do not assume that you can raise lilies cheaper from seed. If you are not an enthusiast you will save money to buy your lilies and let someone else spend the time and labor, and reap the joys and sorrows.

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS

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Mr. C. H. Hoxel,
Mrs. Leroy Wright,
Mrs. J. C. Higgins,

FLOWER SHOW RULES

(Continued from Page 8)

18. All vases, baskets, bowls, etc., belonging to exhibitors must be called for Monday morning not later than 11 o'clock.
19. The Floral Association invites exhibits, however small, if meritorious. Exhibits of single specimens of flowers or plants will be duly considered. Special reservations of space may be made by telephone with Mrs. M. A. Greer, Hill. 1550-J. Where Exhibits are to be of any considerable size it is advisable to make reservations in advance.

SHOW CHAIRMEN

Roses—Mrs George W. Gardner. Bayview 0346-M.
Sweetpeas—Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gibbs. Hillcrest 1550-J.
Iris—Mrs. Paul Tuttle. Hillcrest 6642.
Arrangements in Baskets, Bowls or Dishes—Mrs. Etta Schwieder, Hillcrest 4950, and Mrs. George Morrison, Hillcrest 0890-W.
Classes 66-72, Inclusive—Mrs. John Nuttall. Phone Hillcrest 8984-J.
Classes 73-78, Inclusive—Mrs. Dennie Roult. Phone Hillcrest 4636.
Classes 84-85-86-87-88 — Best Display of Succulents—Mrs. E. W. S. Delacour. Hillcrest 4021.
Still Life Flower Pictures—Mrs. John D. Wimmer. Randolph 5226.
Dining Table Decorations—Mrs. Murray Smith. La Mesa 296 or Randolph 5226.
Professionals—Mrs. Anna Birch. Main 0842 or Hillcrest 1594.
Clerking—Mrs. Elsie Case.
Gate Receipts—Mrs. Erskine Campbell.
Nomenclature—Miss Eleanor Carroll.
Judges—Mr. Silas Osborn.
General Chairman—Mrs. M. A. Greer. Hillcrest 1550-J.
General Secretary—Mrs. M. E. Ward. Hillcrest 3132-J.

No Fee is Charged for Making Entries in This Show.

Mr. Ross Newton, Pomona.
Mr. Burkett Newton, South Pasadena.
Mr. Alex Smith ,Hollywood.
Mrs. E. E. Martin, Pasadena.
Mrs. Wm. Hall, Lompoc.
Miss Ola Fuqua, Chula Vista.
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Mrs. Wm. Kraemer, Alpine.
Mr. Nicolas Costareffs, Chateau Thier, France.
Mrs. H. O. Ketner, San Francisco, Calif.
Mr. H. O. Ketner, San Francisco, Calif.

Growing Dahlias from Seed

By EVA KENWORTHY GRAY

. . . *A Fascinating and Educational Hobby*

GROWING dahlias from seed is both educational and interesting. One learns to discriminate between the better dahlias and those not worthy to grow in the garden. A good dahlia takes up the same room that a poor dahlia occupies, therefore the poorer flower should be discarded.

Any one can grow dahlias from the seed, the main thing is to get seed from reliable sources—seed from gardens that grow the best varieties and though no necessarily hand pollenized, the grower should be sure that there are plenty of bees inhabiting the garden and culling pollen from the flowers. They are the best distributors of pollen and can reach the center of a flower where a grower could not reach without destroying the flower, and perhaps not able to find any pollen.

One finds that the large exhibition varieties do not produce as good flowers as those which are good seed bearers. I always plant a good seed bearer among the large kinds and the combination of the two produce finer and larger flowers with a greater percent of varieties.

Good seed bearers are: Marmion, Mrs. A. B. Seal, Barbara Wear, Avalon, Jersey Beacon, Jersey Beauty, Pride of California, Roman Eagle and a fine Cactus called Coombs of American Beauty color.

This latter combined with the other varieties gave me many lovely cactus forms and of the most desirable colors in shades of pink, and what pleased me so much was that the stems were all so strong and held the flower well up. Though they were not as large as Edna Ferber and some other of the large exhibition varieties, they proved good for cutting.

I really believe that one should give seedlings a second year trial for I've found that sometimes a seedling will show up better the second year than the first. Last year I grew a seedling from Jersey Beauty that I was about to discard as not up to first class, but had a vacant space in the seedling row, so I planted a tuber of it, and what was my surprise to find it a splendid flower with good stem, lilac pink in color and such a floriferous dahlia that I had many good bouquets of it in the house all summer. Although I do not expect any of my seedlings to get into commercial use, I feel that I have many that are fully equal to those I buy and quite as satisfactory.

Out of one hundred seedlings planted in May (from my own seed) I have forty marked as worthy for a second year trial, these ranging from large decorative types through the Decorative, Informal Decorative, Cactus, Show, and one Miniature Decorative in tan color that many liked.

I cut out all singles as they bloom so that if I wish to save any seed from the plot there will be less of the singles in the next crop.

I do not grow either colleretts or pompoms, as I want my seeds to be as free from such influences as possible.

Though I did not have any white dahlias in the garden last year I found several with white flowers. Two were very large decorative, and two singles, which were promptly dug out before they would be used to pollinize any of the near-by ones. The single white ones looked like giant cosmos and were really attractive flowers. One of the double white ones had twisted petals and perhaps would be called a semi-cactus. These white flowered ones came from Marmion seed an dhave reverted to a former type. The seed from Radio gave many varieties of the red and yellow bi-colors. Some were yellow with red tips and others were red with outside rim of yellow. I discarded, too, all those that had weak stems as no matter how lovely the flower a stem that lets the flower hang down like a fuchsia is never satisfactory There was one in the form of the English cactus with long twisted red petals with yellow tips.

A Marmion dahlia that was growing close to a Jane Cowl gave me some extra large and fine decoratives, two of which looked so much like Seal's Californian that placed side by side in a vase could not be distinguished as to which was a seedling and which the named commercial dahlia. There was a freak, too, that had a center of small petaloids closely crowded and surrounded by longer petals. Another red one was odd with five long petals that looked like a star with shorter inside petals. I called it Red Star, and may try it another year to see if the form is a fixed one.

The little tan miniature decorative grew very tall—about eight feet, I should judge, with long stems. Not as small as a pompom, or as large as a show—so could not be classed as either.

To an amateur, this growing dahlias from seed is most fascinating. One sees a beauty in every flower and it is often hard to discard one because it does not come up to the standard.

I planted seeds in March in seed boxes of rich soil; each variety of seed being kept separate and marked so I would be able to tell what the parentage was. After the plants had grown an inch or two and had their secondary leaves formed they were transplanted in rows in the garden. A long trench was dug and this filled in with fertilizer which was well incorporated and around each seedling was placed a handful of sand to keep the moisture near the root until it had taken hold. Later a mulch of strawy manure was spread along the row for additional feed and they were never allowed to become dry, irrigating by letting the water run down the rows. I like to get the plot started early and have the ground well spaded and left to lie over winter where the rains will sink in deep and when the weeds start, as they usually do with the rains, they are turned under for additional humus.

The Industrious Ant . . .

By C. WALTER CLEMENT

. . . *The Argentine Ant a Serious Garden Pest*

The question of an infestation is a serious one for the gardener. This is due to the aid ants give in the spread and protection of various plant insects such as aphids, mealy bug, and scale. The principal offender in this regard is the Argentine ant, so well known to the Southern Californians.

The Argentine ant was first noticed in the United States in Louisiana about 1904 and became a problem around Los Angeles in 1910. Since that time it has spread all over the state, being particularly prevelant in the dryer sections and where the winters are mild.

Ant colonies are made up of queens, workers, drones, eggs, larvae, and pupae. The queens, and there may be 80 to 100 to a nest, lay the eggs. The workers are unfertilized females who forage for food, feed the queens, and act as nurses to the young. The drones are the males who have no job at all except that of fertilizing the queens.

As the queens lay from 80 to 100 eggs a day, if food is abundant these ants will multiply very rapidly. The workers forage for food, using the honey dew secreted by the mealy bug, aphid, and scale. They spread the infestations of these insects and protect them from their natural enemies.

The question of ant control involves the use of poisoned food which they will carry to their nests. Naturally this involves control measures for the pests feeding the ants. Ants are very much like humans, they won't eat canned food if fresh food is available.

Effective control involves spraying, locating the ant nests, and the proper placing of the poisoned food so the ants can get it. Nests may be treated to kill the ants there, but main dependence must be placed on the poisoned food.

The first food used was a syrup with about ¼ of 1% sodium arsenite as a poison. This is still widely used and is the basis of most of the liquid poisons commercially available. In the past two or three years poisoned gelatines have come into use and are rapidly replacing the syrups. While no more attractive as a food, they have several advantages: They do not sour or mildew, and the ants do not drown in them. They require less attention therefore.

Control is easy if one gets the right start and follows through, but halfway measures will not give good results.

FUCHSIA RAISERS OFFERED CHANCE TO TRADE SLIPS

Fuchsia fanciers of San Diego are invited to exchange cuttings with Fred A Schwartfager, who last fall projected a plan for housing several hundred plants in a lath house in Balboa park. Schwartfager, who is working with John Morley, superintendent of parks, plans to name the plants after San Diegans who variously are distinguishing themselves. The feature will be in the form of a garden memorial.

Schwartfager's plan has evolved considerably since last fall. It was planned to build a lath house, but Morley recently decided to use the house at the head of the lily pond in front of the botanical garden for Schwartfager's plan.

Schwartfager has 1600 plants growing in the Balboa park nursery. They represent about 60 varieties of the 150 in the fuchsia family. Persons who raise these plants are therefore invited to exchange cuttings that a larger variety may be collected. Naming of the plants will be decided upon after they have been properly assembled, grown and housed.

The following persons and institutions have contributed fuchsias to Schwartfager and Morley for the garden:

Kate O. Sessions, David Troth, Johnson Nursery, A. A. Meadows, F. T. Scripps, F. A. Schwartfager, W. L. Van Schaick and others. Persons interested in exchanging cuttings are requested to call the administration building, Balboa park, Main 0605.

—S. D. Union.

"Peonies"

F. F. Rockwell's new book, "Peonies" (Macmillan, $1.00) will guide the venturing footsteps of those who wish to grow these gorgeous flowers. The foothills of central and eastern San Diego County are good peony growing sections.

To California gardeners the chapter on Tree Peonies will have especial appeal, since this is the type of peony which flowers most successfully in our state. I can think of no lovelier sight than the splendid specimen of tree peony which I saw last spring in a Marin County garden, its huge single flowers gleaming white against the low branches of a redwood.

Mr. Rockwell covers his subject thoroughly and gives us ample cultural instructions as well as the latest news regarding peony types and varieties.

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Give yourself a thrill—try something different in your garden. Why be satisfied with only ordinary, commonly-used plants? There are many splendid new flowering shrubs little known in California which will grow and flower luxuriantly in the vicinity of San Diego and which will surprise you and your friends with their beauty. On this page are listed a few of the many rare and unusual flowering plants offered by the Armstrong Nurseries this season.

PURPLE ROCKROSE (Cistus purpureous). A new English hybrid, the finest of all the Rockroses, covered for months in spring with lovely 4-inch flowers, rose-purple with mahogany spots.

PINK BREATH OF HEAVEN (Diosma pulchrum). A little 3-foot plant, covered all spring and summer with innumerable little starry bright pink flowers spread over its fragrant foliage.

CANDOLLEA CUNEIFORMIS. A new Western Australian plant, 4 feet high, covered from March to June with 1-inch bright yellow flowers like a free blooming yellow wild rose.

CORREA PULCHELLA. Another Australian that becomes only 18 inches high but 4 to 5 feet across, bearing exquisite little bell-shaped flowers of soft pink.

HOLMSKIOLDIA. A big, easily grown shrub which produces the year around a glorious profusion of richly colored brick-red flowers, as colorful as the finest Bougainvillea.

Two Colorful New Brooms

GENISTA DALLIMOREI. A richly colored dwarf Broom, 3 feet high, with dense green foliage and masses of purple and gold flowers.

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